

“A Simple Favor”

By Helen Lutz

Have you ever wanted to be a ‘trendy’ mom (or dad) as my girls put it? Not one who wears mom jeans, but the mom who has the perfect shape, hair, skin, clothes, car, house, job, husband ... you get the idea. In the new film “A Simple Favor” meet Emily Nelson (Blake Lively) the super sheik mom always adorned in three piece suits with six inch heels and a sultry look on her face indicating that she is three steps ahead of everyone else.



Most of us moms fit more into the Anna Kendrick character Stephanie Smothers. Stephanie is a widow (her husband died in an auto accident) turned mommy vlogger providing popular mommy tips and recipes. Always the first one to volunteer at school (to the point that the teacher asks her to save some jobs for the other mommies) Stephanie is not well liked but really does know how to wield a mean glue gun.

In “A Simple Favor” perfect Emily and somewhat nerdy Stephanie become ‘friends du jour’ when their sons want a play date. Stephanie joins Emily at her glamorous home and while the boys play, Stephanie is enticed to begin her afternoon indulging in martinis with a perfect lemon twist. Play dates come more frequently as do the martinis. Stephanie enjoys her new found friend; however, Emily remains aloof cautioning that Stephanie does not want to be her friend and indicates that she most definitely does not want to have her picture taken at any time.

What’s the simple favor? Since Emily’s husband Sean (Henry Golding) is out of town on business, would it be possible for Stephanie to pick up Nicky (Ian Ho) after school. Sure ... no problem, what could possibly go wrong ... go wrong ... go wrong?

Picking up Nicky is quite easy, however, just how long is Stephanie supposed to keep Nicky? Emily doesn’t show up to collect him, doesn’t answer her phone, isn’t at her job; she has disappeared into thin air. After a couple of days of watching the boy, Stephanie manages to contact Sean who apologetically rushes right home to get his son having no idea as to his wife’s whereabouts.

Just how do you find a woman with no pictures? The police have little to go on. It seems as though Emily has vanished into thin air. “A Simple Favor” has more twists and turns than the lemon twists in the ladies’ martinis. Sometimes the neighbor’s grass is greener because it’s fake, and sometimes because it’s full of bull poop – be careful where you step.

“A Simple Favor” introduces us to an enviable life style and a strange friendship. Kendrick and Lively melt into their personas keeping us entertained, bewildered and ready to try a martini with the perfect lemon twist. On a scale of one to four Hart Beats I give “A Simple Favor” THREE HARTS. This is a great dinner and movie date night film.